

Sherlock

'RETURN OF THE DEVIL"

story by – Martin Powell illustrated by – Seppo Makinen lettering by – Michael DeLepine

'THE LOCH NESS HORROR'

story by – Martin Powell Illustrated by Seppo Makinen lettering by

Susan Dorne and Chuck Mal

cover by Tim Seelia

MOONSTONE (s.

Dave Usaski - I director Garr ti Anderson & Uni G - aditoriat Gass & Mika Heynolds - ground cont Kallil-ed - Erien - web master

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Holmer Mysteries, values two This publication 0 2004 and published by Monestone, 362 Torresce Avenu.

Dedication:

To Lisa...for saving my life, or, at least, for helping me to find it again.

Heknowledgements:

For Joe, Jason, Brenda, Paul, John, Jennifer, Fred, Molly, Libby, and Ruth --all my heartfelt thanks. You each know why.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

There is an old adage that maintains truth is stranger than fiction. I've lived long enough to testify that is a most accurate assertion. Take the following example of what could only be labeled one of life's torturous ironies.

A little known young doctor dreams of becoming a famous author. He meticulously researches tomes of weighty volumes to write his long, rambling historical novels. He pours his heart and soul into these writing ventures only to have the critics give his efforts a lukewarm reception.

His medical practice barely earning him a sufficient living, our doctorwriter, on a whin, create a pulphia mystery tinged with horror. Be deimmediately sells it to one of the common, popular magazines of the time, the story, to his surprise, is so well received by the public, the editor of quickly demands more of the same. He is advised to reuse the detective here from his first success.

Initially our staid and proper author, is only too happy to comply, as long as these "insignificant detective tales" bring him a nice little bit of cash and do not interfere with his more serious apprations.

Can you imagine the writer's dismay when these mystery pieces become the very works he is canonized for and his historical romances are completely sparsed?

Talk about success with a curse. The man in question spent the remainder of his life detesting the very thing that made him famous and wealthy. To his dying day, he had nothing but loathing for the fictional setuh he had invented, a character that would go on to become one of the best-loved heroes in all the world.

that Character was Merlock Holmes and the broken hearted doctor was arthur Coann Dojle. That Dojle came to hate the labler Street private investigated it well documented. He even went to far a to actually kill him off in one story and was calely amus about It. Dornataely, for us, a load off in one story and was calely amus about It. Dornataely, for us, a load editors, agents and triends, forced him for correct the situation and bring back the pipe amontage, violing playing bars of crime.

Truly this was one of the strangest relationships in literary history.

Happity, those many readers, like horror writer Martin Powell, born one hundred years, sinest to the day, after Duyle, did not thate his disdain, lather, Powell, like millions of other fans, followed the majority in his devotion to the canon boyle had set down, but his hair of ferewed loyality are written would pick up the saga and add to libines's stature over the year. That Fowell lowes this make-believe character has been evident since his first paticles, the brillianty, SCARLT IN GASLORI, wherein the great detective metts from Stoker's Count Dracula for the first time. Added and integred by artist Stoper's Count Dracula for the first time. Added and exciting graphic novels ever published. Its overshelming success, like the early Strand stories by Doyles Drought up a framile demand for another adventure. ACASE OF BLIND FARK pitting the detective folimes against the madness of H. O. Well's Purplishe May

Happily, publisher Moonstone has recently re-presented both of these original stories complete within a single volume, SHERLOCK HOLMES WYSTERIES Volume # 1, for a much wider audience than ever before, to be found in bookstores everywhere.

It was obvious, this talented team had found a niche in pitting the detective, and his faithful ally, Dr. Watson, against other famous figures of classical Victorian England, both real and fictional. I wouldn't doubt Alan Moore read these very comics long before creating his own LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINANY GENTLEMEN.

But, that was yesterday. At least, as the first volume is concerned. What would Powell and Makinen do next? Down what dark road would they take for our famous London duo?

This book, SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES Volume 2, answers that very question.

Once again, in two complete, very distinct and original adventures, Holmes and Watson find themselves confronting evil from both realistic crime and mythological horror. Their really was an Aleister Crowley and he was once tabled The Wickedest Man in the World. It, is claimed his own mother called him the "Beast". Crowley, a prilliant occulitist, all during his infamously tumnituous life, never dended either title.

Crowley actually lived, for a certain period, upon the mysterious shores of loch Ness, alledged some of a legendary monster. It is also well-documented that the dark magician attempted to evoke the glant creature to the surface many times. He claimed to have been successful. Even today, in the 21st Century, residents and jourists alike report sightings of a terrible, unknown animal living beneat the gurtly waters.

The reality of the Lochness Monster has been the subject of debase between scientists and finantics for years. Neither camp has ever been able to way the other as to what the creature to or list's. Is the monster really a cryptic survivor from the probatoric age of aquada regrides, or is it are proposed to the control of the control o

What two better plot elements for our illustrious hero to confront?

Unlike the previous volume, the stories in this book have only been seen by a few fans. I am lucky enough to number among that select group and am delighted that they are at long last going out to a larger audience.

Powell and Makinen have lost none of the passion they exhibit so clearly in both words and pictures for Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. Their work is top-notch and if at all believable, is even better than their first efforts.

One can only imagine what a third volume would bring forth? I'm one reader who is keeping his fingers crossed it is not too far away.

As for poor Arthur Conan Doyle, as a writer myself, part of me does empathize with his dejection. But not too strongly, for the common sense in me can't help but chide the old boy. It's time his spirit faced the facts, much like his most famous creation and accept them.

Sherlock Holmes is here to stay.

Ron Fortier 1/8/04 Somersworth, NH



SCARLETIN GASHGHI

































































































SHERLOCK HOLMES





















































































































































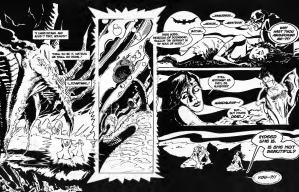












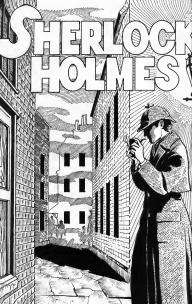














Sherlock Holmes, the world's first & greatest consulting detective, is back, in these two thrilling mysteries!

RETURN OF THE DEVIL

The many drug, addicts of London have faiter victim to 'a poisnous supply,' of cocaine, trapping Sherlock Holmes himself within its deadly grp. The Great Petective is submerged, into a world of inghitmates where the evil Professor Morlary Still lives, "The Woman', seems to have become a reality, Holmes must do battle against his very soul, at last faing his most terrible enemy... himself."

THE LOCH NESS HORROR

-Shertock Holmes is back in this sequel to RETURN 'OF THE DEVIL, Lured out of retirement, Holmes is called upon by the Vatlean to Investigate the bizarie murder of a priest. He swelfly deduces that this is no powerful holy retile as been stolen from the secret, Valits, Aleister, Crawley, the self proclaimed Most Wicked Man in the World, Casts Yiu Swil Designs against All humanity in a mad scheme to erouse beamsday. All the where something demonic is one again flauting the tig shrouded moors.

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